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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicants : Akira OGINO et al.
Serial No. : 09/351,399
For : INFORMATION-SIGNAL PLAYBACK SYSTEM,
INFORMATION-SIGNAL READING APPARATUS,
INFORMATION-SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS,
INFORMATION-SIGNAL PLAYBACK METHOD,
INFORMATION-SIGNAL READING METHOD AND
INFORMATION-SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS
Filed : July 13, 1999
Examiner : James A. REAGAN
Art Unit : 3621

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APPEAL BRIEF OF APPELLANT

Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is an appeal from the Final Rejection by the Examiner dated October 7, 2003

and the Advisory Action dated December 17, 2003, in which claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36,

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44-46 and 51-55 were rejected. This brief is accompanied by the requisite fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(c). This brief is submitted in triplicate as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.192(a).

REQUEST FOR AN ORAL HEARING

An oral hearing is requested.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Sony Corporation, a Japanese corporation with offices at 7-35 Kitashinagawa 6-Chome, Shinagawa-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, to which appellant has assigned all interest in, to and under this application, by virtue of an assignment recorded on September 21, 1999 at reel 010250, frame 0121 of the assignment records of the Patent and Trademark Office.

RELATED APPEAL AND INTERFERENCE

Upon information and belief, there are no other appeals or interferences that will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

The application was filed on July 13, 1999. Foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 were claimed based on Japanese application 10-200264 (filed on July 15, 1998).

In an Office Action dated October 10, 2001, of pending claims 1-62, the Examiner required an Election of Species among those species readable on Figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9, respectively. Applicants elected by response filed December 27, 2001, without traverse,

Species I corresponding to Figure 1, including claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55, for further prosecution in the present application.

In an Office Action dated March 15, 2002, claims 3, 15, 22, 32, 34, 44, 46, 51 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-65662. Claims 2, 14, 21, 33, 45 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '662 in view of Heemskerk (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,815). Claims 4, 5, 23, 24, 35, 36, 54 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '662 in view of Kato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,663 B1).

In a response to the Office Action filed June 19, 2002, appellant amended claims 1, 13, 20, 32, 44 and 51.

In an Office Action dated September 27, 2002, claims 1-5 and 32-36 were objected to. Claims 4, 5, 23, 24, 35, 36, 54 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-5, 13-15 and 44-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-65662 in view of Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409 B2) and Ryan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,036 B1).

In a response to the Office Action filed December 9, 2002, appellant amended claims 1-3, 13, 20, 32-34, 44 and 51.

In a Final Office Action dated January 29, 2003, claims 4, 5, 23, 24, 35, 36, 54 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-65662 in view of Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409 B2) and Ryan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,036 B1).

In a response to the Final Office Action filed March 18, 2003, appellant amended claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 20, 23, 24, 32, 35, 36, 44, 51, 54 and 55.

In an Advisory Action dated April 4, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the previously filed amendment would not be entered, and maintained the rejection of claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55.

In a response to the Advisory Action filed April 21, 2003, appellant filed an RCE with a Preliminary Amendment in which claims 1, 4, 5, 13, 20, 23, 24, 32, 35, 36, 44, 51, 54 and 55 were amended.

In an Office Action dated June 25, 2003, claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-65662 in view of Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409 B2) and Ryan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,036 B1).

In a response to the Office Action filed August 26, 2003, appellant amended claims 1, 13, 20, 32, 44 and 51 as they now appear in the Appendix.

In a Final Office Action dated October 7, 2003, claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-65662 in view of Schneck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,409 B2) and Ryan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,036 B1).

In a response to the Final Office Action filed December 4, 2003, appellant made no amendments to the claims, but submitted arguments to the Examiner distinguishing the claimed invention from the combination of references relied upon by the Examiner

In an Advisory Action dated December 17, 2003, the Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55. The Examiner indicated that

appellant's request for reconsideration filed December 1, 2003 was considered but did not place the application in condition for allowance.

In a response to the Advisory Action filed January 7, 2004, appellant filed a Notice of Appeal.

The status of the claims are as follows:

Claims allowed: none

Claims objected to: none

Claims rejected: 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55

The rejected claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 are set forth in the Appendix.

The rejected claims are being appealed.

STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS

As noted above, while an Amendment After Final Rejection Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 was filed by Appellant on December 1, 2003, this amendment did not amend the claims, but rather presented arguments against the Examiner's rejection of the claims. Therefore, no amendments to the claims have been presented by Appellant subsequent to the issuance of the Final Rejection by the Examiner.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed toward an apparatus and method for protecting the copyright of an information signal recorded on a recording media, such as a Digital Video Disc (DVD). A problem that is becoming more prevalent recently is the infringement of a copyright of digital content. As a result, one of the objectives of the present invention is to prevent the illegal copying of an information signal onto, for example, a DVD. Protecting the information signal by disabling the playback of an information signal obtained as a result of an illegal copy operation solves this problem.

The information signal system of the present invention comprises of at least an encryption means, a decryption means and a comparing means, and a received information signal includes at least copyright information. The information signal system provides all the copyright information in both encrypted form and in unencrypted form to an information processing apparatus. The information processing apparatus then performs a comparison between the decrypted copyright information and the unencrypted copyright information in order to determine if the copyright information has been illegally altered. In other words, while the copyright protection information is the same, the state in which the copyright protection information is transferred to the information processing apparatus is different. All the copyright protection information is transferred in two different states. One state is an encrypted state and the other state is an unencrypted state.

ISSUES

Whether or not claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of JP 10-65662, Schneck et al. and Ryan et al.

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

It is appellant's intention that claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 be grouped together so that they stand or fall together.

ARGUMENT

Whether or not claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of JP 10-65662, Schneck and Ryan.

Independent claim 1, recites in part, "An information-signal playback system comprising...**comparing means for comparing the decrypted information on said copyright protection with the unencrypted information on said copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on said copyright protection has been performed...**"

(Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

Independent claim 1 of the present invention is distinguishable from the combination of JP 10-65662, Schneck and Ryan, in that, these references fail to disclose a "comparing means for comparing the decrypted information on the copyright protection with the unencrypted information on the copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on the copyright protection has been performed."

At paragraph 8 of the Final Office Action of October 7, 2003 the Examiner admits that claim limitations (i) "output means for supplying the information on copyright protection encrypted by the encryption means..." and (ii) "watermark detecting means" are not disclosed by JP 10-65662. The Examiner relied only on Schneck and Ryan to teach the above-mentioned limitations and therefore to reject all the pending claims.

Schneck is directed generally to a method and apparatus for controlling access to data, where portions of the data are protected, and rules concerning access rights to the data are determined. At page 3 of the Office Action of June 25, 2003, the Examiner admitted, "Schneck discloses transmitting some of the information in an encrypted form, and some of the information in an unencrypted form." The Examiner then concluded that in his view, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to modify Schneck to include complete copyright protection information in both an unencrypted and encrypted form separately and simultaneously.

Therefore, as admitted by the Examiner, Schneck merely teaches encrypting some of the copyright information. The claimed invention, however, recites that all of the copyright information is provided in both encrypted and unencrypted forms. While the Examiner states that it would be obvious to provide all of the copyright information in both encrypted and unencrypted form, applicants disagree. Without a reason for sending all of the information twice, such a transmission would be a waste and would use up additional time and resources for no purpose. Consequently, Schneck does not provide copyright information in duplicate, as does amended independent claim 1 because Schneck has no reason to do so. In the claimed invention, the reasoning behind sending all the information twice and in two forms, one encrypted and one unencrypted, is for comparison purposes. In Schneck, because no comparison is disclosed, there is no reason to send the copyright information twice, and indeed this information in Schneck is sent only once, some of it encrypted and some of it unencrypted.

Specifically, in the claimed invention the contents of the decrypted and unencrypted information streams including the copyright information are compared in order to determine if there has been an attempt to alter the copyright protection information by a user.

Without performing such a comparison, Schneck has no reason to send an encrypted information signal of all the copyright data and an unencrypted information signal of all the copyright data because it would be redundant and would take up valuable storage space.

Indeed, the disclosed purpose of Schneck is to determine whether a data element should be protected or unprotected, and depending on this determination the data element is stored either in the encrypted body part or the unencrypted body part, not in both body parts (column 13, lines 11-18 and column 14, lines 17-26). As a result, Schneck does not provide the same information to both body parts. In other words, the encrypted body part and the unencrypted body part may consist of different information and a comparison in such a case would not make any sense, and indeed because the information is not stored twice a comparison such as the claimed comparison would be impossible. No comparison is being performed between decrypted and unencrypted data, and it therefore would not have been obvious for Schneck to do so, and, as noted, such a comparison would be impossible.

Ryan is directed to a method and apparatus for “copy once” of a digital video signal using a watermark in the video signal. The digital watermark carries additional bits representing a digitized attribute (image characteristic) of a particular frame of the video signal. A compliant video recorder verifies the watermark and a copy-once bit, extracts the additional bits representing the image characteristic and compares it to a measured attribute of the particular frame of the video signal. Only if the extracted attribute value and the measured attribute value match is recording enabled.

Ryan does not teach the above-mentioned feature of independent claim 1. Ryan does not teach that all of the copyright information is provided in both encrypted and unencrypted forms and also does not teach comparing means for comparing the decrypted

information on the copyright protection with the unencrypted information on the copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on the copyright protection has been performed.

At page 4 of the Final Office Action of October 7, 2003, the Examiner admits that Ryan “does not specifically disclose that encrypted and unencrypted information are compared.” After this acknowledgement of the deficiency of Ryan, the Examiner further indicated that even though this feature is not disclosed by Ryan, “the feature of comparing attributes to k [sic.] known standards is a variation of comparing bits and data streams that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize as a viable and straightforward means of detecting fraudulent conduct.” Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner because in order to perform a comparison between, for example, two data streams, a reason needs to be provided for doing so, and the two data streams must be present. In Ryan, they are not. Consequently, Ryan does not provide copyright information in duplicate, as does amended independent claim 1 because Ryan has no reason to do so.

However, in accordance with the claimed invention, the entire copyright information portion of the information stream is provided in both encrypted and unencrypted form because the purpose of the invention is to prevent an illegal copy operation by comparing the contents of the decrypted and unencrypted information streams. In order to prevent illegal copies, all the data must be available in both formats in order to perform an accurate comparison. Therefore, neither Schneck nor Ryan nor the combination thereof disclose “comparing means for comparing the decrypted information on said copyright protection with the unencrypted information on said copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on said copyright protection has been performed” and it would not have been obvious or useful for

Schneck, Ryan or the combination thereof to add a comparing means to their inventions because such a limitation would not provide for any benefit and in fact would render their apparatuses overly complex with no apparent benefit.

Furthermore, at page 4 of the Final Office Action of October 7, 2003, as well as at page 5 of the Office Action of June 25, 2003, concerning method claims 32, 44 and 51, the Examiner admitted, “none of JP ‘662, Schneck and Ryan explicitly discloses the claimed methods.” While the Examiner indicated that it would have been obvious to operate such system, which would have been obvious as stated supra, the Examiner admits that none of the applied references explicitly teach the claimed methods.

Moreover, at page 5 of the Final Office Action of October 7, 2003, as well as at page 6 of the Office Action of June 25, 2003, concerning claims 4, 5, 23, 24, 35, 36, 54 and 55, the Examiner admitted, “none of JP ‘662, Schneck and Ryan explicitly discloses the use of additional information (additional digital watermark information).” While the Examiner indicated that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add any desirable number of digital watermark information, appellants disagree, but note that the Examiner admits that none of the applied references teach the claimed comparison feature.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 13, 20, 32, 44 and 51 are believed to be distinguishable from JP 10-65662 in view of Schneck and Ryan.

Claims 2-4, 14, 15, 21-24, 33-36, 45, 46 and 52-55 are dependent from one of the independent claims, and due to such dependency, are believed to be distinguishable from JP 10-65662 in view of Schneck and Ryan for at least the reasons previously described.


CONCLUSION

Claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 are not obvious in view of the applied combination of JP 10-65662 in view of Schneck and Ryan. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner erred in rejecting claims 1-5, 13-15, 20-24, 32-36, 44-46 and 51-55 and a reversal of such rejections by this Honorable Board is solicited.

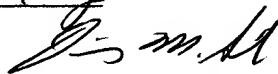
Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

--1. An information-signal playback system comprising an information-signal reading apparatus for reading out a main information signal and information on copyright protection from a recording medium containing said main information signal and information on at least copyright protection, and an information-signal processing apparatus for receiving said main information signal and said information on said copyright protection received from said information-signal reading apparatus, said information-signal reading apparatus comprising:

 readout means for reading out said information on said copyright protection from said recording medium;

 encryption means for encrypting said information on said copyright protection read out by said readout means; and

 output means for supplying, to said information-signal processing apparatus, said information on said copyright protection as encrypted by said encryption means, and said same information on said copyright protection in an unencrypted form as received from said information-signal reading apparatus, and said main information signal on which said copy control information is embodied; and

 said information-signal processing apparatus comprising:

 decryption means for decrypting encrypted information on said copyright protection received from said information-signal reading apparatus;

 comparing means for comparing the decrypted information on said copyright protection with the unencrypted information on said copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on said copyright protection has been performed; and

control means for controlling predetermined processing carried out on said main information signal on the basis of said unencrypted information on said copyright protection received from said information-signal reading apparatus, said information on said copyright protection obtained as a result of decryption carried out by said decryption means, said judgment of whether an attempt to alter the information on the copyright protection has been performed and said copy control information.--

--2. An information-signal playback system according to claim 1 wherein said information on copyright protection is media-type information indicating the type of said recording medium.--

--3. An information-signal playback system according to claim 1 wherein said encryption means employed in said information-signal reading apparatus encrypts said information on copyright protection in accordance with a CSS system.--

--4. An information-signal playback system according to claim 1 wherein:
information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation for controlling a copy operation has been added to said main information signal recorded on said recording medium;

said information-signal processing apparatus is provided with information indicating never-copy or one-copy detecting means for detecting said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation added to said main information signal received from said information-signal reading apparatus; and

said control means controls predetermined processing carried out on said main information signal by taking said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation detected by said information-signal detecting means into consideration.--

--5. An information-signal playback system according to claim 4 wherein:

said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation is information superposed on said main information signal; and

said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control detecting means employed in said information-signal processing apparatus detects the superposed information on said main information signal.--

--13. An information-signal reading apparatus for reading out a main information signal and information on copyright protection from a recording medium containing said main information signal and information on at least copyright protection and for supplying said signal and said information to an information-signal processing apparatus, said information-signal reading apparatus comprising:

readout means for reading out said information on said copyright protection from said recording medium;

encryption means for encrypting said information on said copyright protection read out by said readout means;

output means for supplying, to said information-signal processing apparatus, said information on said copyright protection as encrypted by said encryption means, and said same information on said copyright protection in an unencrypted form as received from said

information-signal reading apparatus, and said main information signal on which said copy control information is embodied; and

comparing means for decrypting and comparing the encrypted information on said copyright protection with the unencrypted information on said copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on said copyright protection has been performed.--

--14. An information-signal reading apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said information on copyright protection is media-type information indicating the type of said recording medium.--

--15. An information-signal reading apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said encryption means employed in said information-signal reading apparatus encrypts said information on copyright protection in accordance with a CSS system.--

--20. An information-signal processing apparatus for receiving a main information signal, encrypted information on copyright protection and unencrypted information on copyright protection, said information-signal processing apparatus comprising:

output means for supplying, to said information-signal processing apparatus, said information on said copyright protection as encrypted by encryption means, and said same information on said copyright protection in an unencrypted form as received from said information-signal reading apparatus, and said main information signal on which copy control information is embodied;

decryption means for decrypting said encrypted information on said copyright protection;

comparing means for comparing the decrypted information on said copyright protection with the unencrypted information on said copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on said copyright protection has been performed; and

control means for controlling predetermined processing carried out on said main information signal on the basis of said unencrypted information on said copyright protection, information on said copyright protection obtained as a result of decryption carried out by said decryption means, said judgment of whether an attempt to alter the information on the copyright protection has been performed and said copy control information.--

--21. An information-signal processing apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said information on copyright protection is media-type information indicating the type of said recording medium.--

--22. An information-signal processing apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said encrypted information on copyright protection is information encrypted in accordance with a CSS system.--

--23. An information-signal processing apparatus according to claim 20 wherein:
information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation for
controlling a copy operation has been added to said main information signal;
information indicating never-copy or one-copy detecting means is provided for
detecting said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation added to
said main information signal; and
said control means controls an operation to output said main information signal by
taking said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation detected by
said information-signal detecting means into consideration.--

--24. An information-signal processing apparatus according to claim 23 wherein:
said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation is
information superposed on said main information signal; and
said information indicating never-copy or one-copy detecting means detects the
superposed information on said main information signal.--

--32. An information-signal playback method for driving an information-signal
reading apparatus to read out a main information signal and information on copyright protection
from a recording medium containing said main information signal and information on at least
copyright protection and supply said main information signal and said information on said
copyright protection to an information-signal processing apparatus, said information-signal
playback method comprising the steps of:

driving said information-signal reading apparatus to supply, to said information signal processing apparatus, said information on copyright protection as encrypted, and said same information on said copyright protection in an unencrypted form as received from said information-signal reading apparatus, and said main information signal on which copy control information is embodied;

driving said information-signal processing apparatus to decrypt said encrypted information on said copyright protection received from said information-signal reading apparatus;

driving said information-signal processing apparatus to control predetermined processing carried out on said main information signal on the basis of said unencrypted information on said copyright protection received from said information-signal reading apparatus, said information on said copyright protection obtained as a result of decryption and said copy control information; and

comparing the decrypted information on said copyright protection with the unencrypted information on said copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on said copyright protection has been performed.--

--33. An information-signal playback method according to claim 32 wherein said information on copyright protection is media-type information indicating the type of said recording medium.--

--34. An information-signal playback method according to claim 32 further including the step of encrypting said information on copyright protection in accordance with a CSS system.--

--35. An information-signal playback method according to claim 32;
wherein information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation for controlling a copy operation has been added to said main information signal recorded on said recording medium, said information-signal playback method further including the step of driving said information-signal processing apparatus to detect said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation added to said main information signal and control predetermined processing carried out on said main information signal by taking said detected information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation into consideration.--

--36. An information-signal playback method according to claim 35;
wherein said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation is information superposed on said main information signal, said information-signal playback method further including the step of driving said information-signal processing apparatus to detect the superposed information on said main information signal.--

--44. An information-signal reading method for reading out a main information signal and information on copyright protection from a recording medium containing said main information signal and information on at least copyright protection and for supplying said signal and said information to an information-signal processing apparatus, said information-signal reading method comprising the step of supplying, to said information-signal processing apparatus, said information on copyright protection as encrypted, and said same information on said copyright protection in an unencrypted form as received from said information-signal reading apparatus, and said main information signal on which copy control information is embodied and decrypting and comparing the encrypted information on said copyright protection with the unencrypted information on said copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on said copyright protection has been performed.--

--45. An information-signal reading method according to claim 44 wherein said information on copyright protection is media-type information indicating the type of said recording medium.--

--46. An information-signal reading method according to claim 44 further including the step of encrypting said information on copyright protection in accordance with a CSS system.--

--51. An information-signal processing method for receiving a main information signal, encrypted information on copyright protection and unencrypted information on copyright protection, said information-signal processing method comprising the steps of:

supplying, to said information-signal processing apparatus, said information on copyright protection as encrypted, and said same information on said copyright protection in an unencrypted form as received from said information-signal reading apparatus, and said main information signal on which copy control information is embodied;

decrypting said encrypted information on copyright protection;

comparing the decrypted information on said copyright protection with the unencrypted information on said copyright protection to judge if an attempt to alter the information on said copyright protection has been performed; and

controlling predetermined processing carried out on said main information signal on the basis of said unencrypted information on said copyright protection, decrypted information on said copyright protection, said judgment of whether an attempt to alter the information on the copyright protection has been performed and said copy control information.--

--52. An information-signal processing method according to claim 51 wherein said information on copyright protection is media-type information indicating the type of said recording medium.--

--53. An information-signal processing method according to claim 51 wherein said encrypted information on copyright protection is information encrypted in accordance with a CSS system.--

--54. An information-signal processing method according to claim 51 wherein information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation for controlling a copy operation has been added to said main information signal, said information-signal processing method further including the steps of:

detecting said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation added to said main information signal;

controlling predetermined processing carried out on said main information signal by taking said detected information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation into consideration.--

--55. An information-signal processing method according to claim 54 wherein said information indicating never-copy or one-copy control implementation is information superposed on said main information signal, said information-signal processing method further including the step of detecting the superposed information on said main information signal.--